Besides the fifty four districts as above, the programme was in operation in twenty more adjoining districts with similar characterstics.

The Task Force, 1982 suggested the following criteria for inclusion/exclusion of areas under the programme :—

	Annual rainfall	% age irrigated area to net sown area
(1) for exclusion of existing blocks	(i) below 750 mm	above 40%
	(ii) above 750 mm	above 30%
(2) for inclusion of	(i) below 750 mm	below 20%
	(ii) below 1125 mm and above 750 mm	below 15%
	(iii) above 1125 mm	Below 10%

As administrative factor, the Task Force suggested that the number of blocks to be covered in a district should be more than 20% of total blocks in the district. Accordingly DPAP was recommended for 511 blocks of 69 districts in 13 States.

An Inter Departmental Group reviewed the criteria adopted by the Task Force and made the following modifications in 1984 :

(i) Blocks earlier included under the programme should not be excluded on the grounds of small coverage in the district (i.e. less than 20% of total number of blocks in the district), if the stipulated conditions regarding irrigation and rainfall were satisfied.

(ii) No new blocks should be included under the programme if average annual rainfall is 1650 mm and above.

The coverage of the programme at present is based on the criteria laid down by the Task Force (1982) and as modified by the Inter Departmental Group (1984). At present, DPAP is under implementation in 615 blocks of 92 districts in 13 States.

(d) The periodical progress reviews made by the Central Sanctioning Committee (CSC) on DPAP indicate that there has been some improvement in mitigation of drought conditions in these districts through land development, water resources development and providing adequate vegetative cover. The Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO), Planning Commission, is presently engaged in an all India evaluation of DPAP and a clearer picture will emerge after receipt of its report.

(e) and (f) The matter relating to selection of other districts or exclusion of some of the existing areas will be looked into by a separate Committee.

Distribution of Foodgrains under Anti-Poverty Programmes

*160. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM :

SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the distribution of foodgrains under anti-poverty programmes has declined during the last three years and it has gone to 17 thousand tonne in 1991-92 from 22 lakh tonne in 1987, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that the decline is due to inadequate availability of foodgrains for public distribution system;

(c) whether Government propose to discontinue "food for work" scheme in view of the non-availability of foodgrains; and

(d) if so, what measures Government propose to take to provide safety net to the rural poor to save them from starvation and malnutrition ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Actual distribution of foodgrains under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) during 1991-92 was 31200 MTS and not 17000 MTS. The foodgrains allocated/utilised under JRY during the last three years is as under :—

Year	Foodgrains (In MTS) Allocated	Utilised
1989-90	671777	469812
1990-91	363308	126298
1991-92	301550	31200

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The distribution of foodgrains under JRY was made optional during 1989-90 and this had resulted in the reduction of off-take. However, from the year 1992-93, it has been decided that the foodgrains should invariably be given as part of wages under JRY in view of its sustained benefits to the rural poor and there should not be any option in this regard. So, foodgrains are now required to be distributed to the workers engaged under the Yojana at the rate of 2 kgs. per manday. Accordingly, a total quantity of twelve lakhs MTs of foodgrains have been allocated to different States/UTs during the current year for distribution under JRY.

Refusal by France to Supply Enriched Uranium and Transfer of Rocket Technology

1587. SHRI B. K. HARI PRASAD :

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that France has refused to supply enriched uranium and transfer of rocket technology to India;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have since taken any alternative steps to meet the situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM (a) On the supply of nuclear fuel to Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS), the French position is that while it would abide by its present contractual obligations which are valid till 1993, supply of nuclear fuel to TAPS beyond 1993 would be on the condition of India accepting full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. As regards transfer of rocket technology to India, the Department of Space/ Indian Space Research Organisation has not sought any specific rocket technology transfer from France. Hence, the question of France refusing to transfer rocket technology to India does not arise.

(b) Since 1991, France had decided on fullscope IAEA safeguards as a condition for future nuclear cooperation, which would cover projects of bilateral cooperation.

(c) and (d) Mixed Oxide (MOX) fuel has been produced by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) on experimental basis which can be used in TAPS in the absence of enriched uranium. It is also possible to provide enriched uranium for TAPS based on indigenous technology developed in BARC.